

Winter Fire Safety Tips



From
The Mansfield Fire
Department

CHRISTMAS TREE FACTS:



- Christmas trees were the first items ignited in an estimated 360 reported structure fires per year between 1999 and 2002 (real and artificial Christmas trees).
- Resulting in 15 deaths, 44 injuries, and \$16.4 million in direct property damage per year.
- Heat sources too close to combustibles and electrical system components (electrical supply, decorative lighting, etc) are the two leading causes of fires in Christmas trees.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Always use safety tree lights.
- Some lights are designed only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- All lights should be listed by a testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratories, Factory Mutual, etc.).
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.





➤ **Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights.**

➤ **Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.**

➤ **Never use lit candles to decorate a Christmas tree.**





Keep live trees as moist as possible.

Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles.

Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.

When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled fire-retardant.

Don't allow children and pets to play with Christmas tree lights or wiring.



Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source.

Position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances.

Do not place the tree where it may block exits.

Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles.

Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.

